

(b) out of the proposals thus received how many were accepted and the action being taken to dispose of the pending proposals;

(c) whether the Directorate, Doordarshan inform the proposer the precise reason of rejection of any proposal, if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) State-wise details of proposals are not maintained.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As a matter of policy, reasons of rejection of proposals at the concept stage are not intimated to the producers.

Electronic Cross Bar Exchanges in Assam

2525. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Electro-Mechanical and cross bar Exchanges functioning in Assam at present;

(b) whether these exchanges have completed their life of 15 years;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to replace them with electronic exchanges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) At present five electronic-mechanical exchanges are functioning in Assam.

(b) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(d) All the electromechanical exchanges are proposed to be replaced by electronic exchanges during 1996-97 as details below.

1.	Guwahati	-	4800 Lines
2.	Rangia	-	200 Lines
3.	Duliajan	-	300 Lines
4.	Digboi	-	300 Lines
5.	Namrup	-	200 Lines

Labours in Tea Garden in Assam

2526. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the social security schemes in a big way for the tea garden labourers in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Tea Plantation labour is already covered under the Workmen's Compensation

Act, the Maternity Benefits Act, and the Payment of Gratuity Act. For PF and other benefits they are covered under the Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund Act. The medical care and certain other facilities are provided under the Plantation Labour Act. There is no concrete proposal to make any further expansion of the existing social security schemes exclusively for the tea garden labourers.

Policy on Aviation

2527. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is in the midst of formulating a comprehensive policy on aviation in order to remove certain ambiguities in the existing one as well as give a boost to the booming industry;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the time by which the announcement is likely to be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Aviation policy is evolved/amended on a continuing basis, keeping in view the experience gained and requirements of trade, commerce/travel & tourism.

Inclusion of Certain Communities in STs List

2528. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Tamang, Limbu and Rai/Kirat castes from amongst the Nepali/Gorkha community are demanding for their inclusion in Scheduled Tribes List;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering their cases positively; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received for the inclusion of the Tamang, Limbu and Kirati Khambu (Rai) communities in the lists of Scheduled Tribes, and are under consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Investment by I.T.D.C. in Delhi based establishments

2529. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount invested by the India Tourism Development Corporation in its Delhi based

establishments during the last three years alongwith the locations of these establishments as on date;

(b) the profit earned by India Tourism Development Corporation, during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation has prepared/contemplated to prepare new schemes for the development of its units in Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) A total amount of Rs.12.71 crores was incurred on its Delhi based commercial units viz., Hotel Ashok, Janpath, Lodhi, Ranjit, Qutab, Samrat, Kanishka, Ashok Yatri Niwas, Duty Free Shops at I.G.I. Airport, New Delhi and Tax Free Shop at Ashok Hotel during the last three years.

(b) The information is given as under :

Year	Net Profit earned (before tax)
1993-94	24.02
1994-95	43.17
1995-96 (Provisional)	65.19

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. The tentative Plan proposals of ITDC for the year 1996-97 include the following components :-

(i) Reconstruction of the existing Lodhi Hotel into a 310 room five star hotel.

(ii) A total plan provision of Rs.8.34 crores has been made for renovation/improvement schemes in hotel Ashok, Samrat, Qutab, Kanishka, Janpath, Ranjit and Ashok Yatri Niwas, New Delhi.

[English]

Inclusion of Backward Communities in SCs/STs list

2530. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :

SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for Backward Classes has received any request from various backward communities to include and consider them as Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes instead of "Other Backward Classes"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The National Backward Classes Commission (NCBC) has received a request from Kaniyara Seva Samaja, Mysore to include

them in the list of Scheduled Tribes. As inclusion of a community in the list of Scheduled Tribes is not within the purview of the NCBC, under the NCBC Act, the Commission has advised the Kaniyara Seva Samaja to approach the Government.

Equity Capital of Cochin International Airport

2531. SHRI A.C. JOS :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airport Authority of India propose to make investments in the equity capital of Cochin International Airports Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Airport Authority of India propose to provide the navigational equipments, Redars and other technical assistance to the above Airport;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Airport Authority of India has no plan, at present, to invest in the equity capital of Cochin International Airports Limited.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Aids

2532. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government get foreign aid for the welfare of blinds, deaf and dumb, mentally retarded and physically handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the amount of foreign aid obtained under this head during the last three years;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated in Bihar under this programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Ministry of Welfare received financial assistance from, the US India Rupee Fund through the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), USA for the District Rehabilitation Centre (DRC) project for 1985-94. The